

Holly M. Palmer

Charter Oak State College

Members of the Appropriations Committee; my name is Holly Palmer and I am a student at Charter Oak State College. Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

I choose to attend Charter Oak State College for several reasons. First, it is a state college which means a lot to me. As a resident of Bristol, I pay taxes that support the state colleges and universities and I'm proud of the education they provide. I also choose Charter Oak because it is an on-line college and that flexibility is essential to my ability to juggle work, family, and school. Finally, Charter Oak is affordable. That's critical because as a working adult, I largely pay for college on my own. As a mom I can also tell you that I'm paying not only for my college, but for that of my kids too.

I graduated last summer with my Associate's degree from Charter Oak. It was a great feeling of accomplishment to walk across the stage and accept my degree. It is more than a piece of paper which I so proudly display on my wall, it's the achievement of a goal so long delayed. Now I am working on finishing my Bachelor's Degree which I will also be getting from Charter Oak. While I have a great job with a local Connecticut company, finishing my degree will make my prospects for the future nothing but brighter. And as my future grows rosier so does the state's future. It is not a difficult leap to understand that the more prosperous I grow, the more I contribute to the state's financial security. In short, I'm a good risk with a lot of upside potential for return on investment.

There is a lot of competition for my educational dollars; especially in the on-line arena. It's imperative that Charter Oak continue to provide an excellent on-line education for a

reasonable price. As such I am asking you to support additional funding for the state colleges and universities. Having a well-educated public is a good investment in all our futures. Please consider voting for additional funding. The students of the CT state colleges and universities are worth it.

Thank you for allowing me to address this committee.

Sincerely,

Holly M Palmer

52 High Meadow Lane

Bristol, CT 06010